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ON THE PROPER TREATMENT OF MEADOW LANDS.

BY JESSE RYDER.

What I mean by meadow land, is that which, from the nature of the soil, is more natural to grass than grain, so much so, as to make it desirable to keep it all the time in grass. It also includes the light moist soil which is good for either grain or grass. As permanent meadow land, the same treatment applies to it all. And be it understood, I have reference to upland merely. To such land as, when poor, or the grass becomes thin upon it, is covered with red moss, and frequently mouse-ear, being reduced to the production of bull's-eye, or white daisy, all of which are the effect, and not the cause of the absence of grass.

Those temporary meadows on dry lands, which come of a rotation of crops, where the grass is renewed after tillage, and remains in but a short time, do not come within the purview of this article. The very dryness of the soil, which compels frequent plowing, increases the profit of the farmer; his land is enriched by the easy and simple means of seed and plaster, in conjunction with the manure of the farm, and, as a general thing, such is the most profitable of all lands.

But a far different system should be adopted with land which is too heavy and wet for grain, without manure.

From the nature of things, it requires manuring highly to insure a crop of grain, and the fertility of the soil cannot be maintained in tillage husbandry, by the cultivation of clover, as is that of dry land.

Where the soil of a farm is all of that nature, there should be no more plowed than can be manured sufficiently to give good assurance of every grain crop sought to be obtained therefrom. Consequently, that portion of the farm under tillage should be small in comparison with that of dry land. But with the treatment which such land usually receives, the amount of manure made from the produce of the farm is too insignificant to maintain, much more to increase its fertility. The common practice is to plow it up when the grass runs down, and take from it several meagre crops of grain, before it is again laid down to grass; then succeed two or three middling crops of grass, before it degenerates to the old standard, again inviting or compelling the owner to renew his impotent efforts to increase its fertility.

But such management is all wrong. The attempt to manage heavy land the same as though it was dry, in order to renew the crop of grass upon it, necessarily involves frequent plowing, with the application of little or no manure to the greater part of it, from the insufficiency of the supply; consequently, the land grows poorer and heavier by the operation. For soils which are naturally too stiff, but have been lightened by vegetable matter, speedily degenerate under tillage, and becomes less porous as the vegetable matter works out; leaving it compact, and heavy, and unfitting it for the growth of plants; so that it requires a very successful new seeding with grass, to again lighten it up and restore it to its former good estate. Such a system, then, should be adopted with such land, as will not diminish the amount of vegetable matter upon the surface of the soil. If it is desirable to plow the land, let it be up but one season as a summer fallow, and sown early with winter grain, and seeded with timothy in the fall, and clover in the spring; that enables the young grass to feed up the old, so that by the time the old roots are decomposed, and appropriated to the use of the new crop, a more luxuriant growth is obtained, and the amount of vegetable matter in the soil increased, or, in other words, its fertility, or power of production is increased, which must be attributed to the large share of nourishment which plants derive from the atmosphere (being, according, to Liebig, nine-tenths of the whole,) that makes the old roots a basis for nine times their weight of vegetable matter to grow upon, or in the soil. This new estate can be maintained without manuring, as I shall show hereafter. Such, in my opinion, is the extent to which land not fitted for a succession of grain crops, may be plowed.

But a far better way than plowing exists, in my opinion, to renew the grass upon old meadow lands. There are two ways in which it may be done without plowing, one through the agency of red clover, the other by top-dressing with manure, of which the one most important to be understood, because the easiest and cheapest, is that which is effected by clover.

Strange as it may appear to some, clover is to stiff clayey soils, when kept constantly in grass, and rightly managed, the same source of fertility that it is to dry land in a judicious rotation of crops.

Although it generally succeeds but poorly on such land in a new seeding, after tillage, owing to the roots being drawn out by frost, it by no means follows that such soils are incapable of producing it. On an old meadow matted with other grass, there is but little freezing and thawing of the surface to draw out the roots of clover, and the multiplicity of other grass roots tend to bind them to the soil.

But it requires peculiar management of meadow land to preserve in it a succession of clover, so as to maintain the fertility of the soil, and renew other grass upon it, so as to increase its burthen, like to a new seeding.

By observation, I have been enabled to discover the circumstances which govern the production of clover on old meadows, which might be called an inductive theory of its operation. To secure its benefits, one general principle is to be observed, which is, to always let the rowen clover go to seed, before cattle are turned on to pasture the after crop.

The operation is simply this: suppose an old meadow that is running down to blue-grass. Timothy and other grasses are dwindling to a light crop, and there are plants of clover scattered over the land, which are permitted to spring up after mowing, and go to seed. The seed sheds abroad over the surface in the fall and winter; in the spring it comes up very early, and is protected from frosts by the old stubble and moss which is upon the land. The crop of other grass being light, gives the young clover a chance to grow, which consequently brings the land round to clover; the old grass preserves the roots during the winter; the next year it is up betimes, and takes possession of the ground by getting the start of other grass, providing the seeding was thick enough. If not, it seeds thicker the next fall, clover being on the increase, and thus it gets possession of the ground, partially smothering other grass, and killing the moss. The land becomes completely renovated, but what becomes of the clover? The year it gets possession, there is naturally a great deal of seed grown in the fall, which scatters over the ground in great profusion; it comes up the next spring; but circumstances are now very different—there being a full growth of other grass, the young clover is nearly all smothered in turn. The old clover dies, and the soil is further ameliorated by its roots, and timothy, redtop, and white clover take possession; young clover is more or less killed, until the timothy and redtop dwindle again; and thus by proper management, is clover made the agent of the farmer in fertilizing the soil and increasing his crops, without the aid of manuring, or plowing; vegetable matter accumulates on the surface, the soil becomes more open and friable, and this without manure.

There are many who suppose it necessary to leave the second growth of grass undisturbed, to rot on the ground, in order to preserve the fertility and maintain the productivenesss of old meadows in grass, where top-dressing with manure is not resorted to. But such management is not only unnecessary, but oftentimes extremely hurtful, and the injury is proportioned to the amount left untrodden and unfed. If the amount left standing, or laying loose upon the surface be considered, it, in the first place, makes a harbor for mice, which will, under cover of the old grass, intersect the surface of the land with paths innumerable, from which they cut all the grass that comes in their way, more especially the crowns of the clover plants, of which they seem especially fond.

In the second place, the loose covering of old grass seems to operate to shade and smother the young grass in the spring, that the mice may have left, more especially the young timothy, and the result is that a meagre crop, of what is here called spear grass, or June grass, shoots up through the old grass as through a brush heap, in lieu of the good burthen of the year before.

1. Always let the rowen clover go to seed.

2. If the season be favorable, and the second growth large, turn in animals upon it as soon as the clover-seed begins to shed, in order that it may be sufficiently fed off and trampled down before winter, otherwise mow it the second time after sufficient seed has been shed upon the ground.

3. If the after-growth be light, so as if left upon the land, it will not endanger the next crop by shade and mice, do not pasture it at all.

Such treatment of meadow land is generous and good, and that generosity will be returned. It does not admit of turning cattle upon meadows as soon as they are mowed, to bite the grass down to the

roots, killing some kinds and injuring others. Timothy grass, for instance, generally requires the balance of the season after mowing, in which to recruit, so as to put forth its best efforts the spring following.

The more kinds of grass there are growing on the same ground, the greater the weight produced, and the thicker the growth. Each kind is supposed to require some specific food not appropriated by the others; therefore it is that old meadows can be made to produce much more weight of grass than those newly seeded.

I now come to treat of top-dressing meadow land with manure, to promote the growth of the grass.

Where hay is much of an object of culture, and manure can be had, the use of it in renewing the crop, possesses the following advantages over the clover culture:

1st. The crop can be kept more uniform in amount by manuring while it is still fair, and before it runs out to blue-grass, which generally precedes the change to clover—for, in the clover culture, one or two slim crops must be expected in a round of from three to six years.

2d. If the hay is destined for market, clover is not as saleable as other grass, and it can be kept in a minority by pasturing the meadows close after mowing, and top-dressing with manure.

3d. Heavier crops can be obtained by top-dressing than by any other system of management, the clover system seldom giving over two tons of hay to the acre—new seeding with timothy, three and a half tons—when top-dressing gives three tons and upwards. Three tons to the acre, obtained by top-dressing, will stand up as well as two tons of timothy newly seeded, being so much thicker at the bottom, and growing so many more kinds of grass. I have obtained three and a half tons to the acre, in a good season, by spreading ten two-horse wagon loads of fresh livery stable manure to the acre, in February, on a stubble principally timothy the year before, when a portion of the meadow not dressed gave but two tons. I have spread fifteen loads of manure to the acre on poor, wet, heavy, meadow land, in the fall, where about half a ton of white daisy grew to the acre. The next year the crop was about one and a half ton of daisy and other grass, particularly red clover; the year following timothy began to get possession—crop about the same in weight. In the fall, I put on about ten loads more to the acre, of swamp manure, that had laid one year in the hog-pen; the result was full three and a half tons of hay to the acre of timothy, and some white daisy of equal height, and very tall. The next year there was a very heavy growth of timothy without daisy, which was now mastered and killed. Two things I have ascertained by top-dressing, which may be useful for some farmers to know. One is, that it is the only way to exterminate from meadows daisies and weeds, and be paid for doing it, instead of paying for having it done.

Bull's-eye or white daisy, does not grow on my meadows, after the yield comes to exceed a ton and a half to the acre, except the year following the application of the manure.

Another thing useful to know is, that it pays better to manure good land than poor, when in grass; the limit being where the effect is neutralized by the grass lodging early, and rotting at the bottom;—at least, such is my experience.

As to the time of year when manure ought to be applied to grass grounds, it must be varied by circumstances. But this much I will say, that it may be done as soon after mowing as is convenient, and if in the spring, not later than the first of March, in this latitude.

If the land be naturally wet, so that in the spring months it is saturated with water, the manure should be applied as soon as possible after it is mowed. By so doing, the rain which falls in the dry part of the season, soaks into the ground, and carries with it the strength of the manure, which is thus secured for the benefit of the land. If on such land manure be put on late in fall or winter, the rains float off a great part of its substance, and the effect is comparatively trifling.

Another case where the manure should be applied early, is where the land is so poor that the grass is weak and thin. In such cases it should be applied immediately after mowing, so that the grass may have time to thicken up in the fall, for the year following. The greatest effect from the manure will then be observed in the first crop of grass. If it be put on late, the greatest effect will not be observed until the second crop is obtained. Early spreading is generally the best on any meadow land. I prefer unfermented stable manure, with the litter undecomposed, to the same manure in a rotten state; and hot, dry weather, in summer, forms no objection with me to applying it immediately. In the dryest weather, the grass will soon spring up through the manure, when it will not grow at all on the parts adjacent.

The manure should be spread very evenly over the ground; if it be long manure, it should be shaken fine off the fork. There are but few hired men who are willing to perform the work aright.

I hate used earth from the road-side, swamp manure, swamp manure with leached ashes spread on it after it was applied to the land, and leached ashes alone for top-dressing, of which the swamp manure and ashes together produced the greatest effect, being fully equal to stable manure, and will no doubt be much more lasting. The rich earth from the road-side, on the second year, more than four times paid for its application. Ashes alone shows a decided good effect. The swamp manure alone has been on for two years without having effected much change—I suppose, because of its insoluble state, and the grass roots not having got hold of it—but I do not despair of its ultimate good effects. I think that, as a manure, it should always be applied to the surface, that it may be dissolved by the gases that float in the atmosphere, aided by the roots of the grass when they have taken possession of it. I know that it is extremely favorable to the growth of timothy when it is once appropriated to its use, and that the crop is maintained for a long time.

In top-dressing with stable manure, I make a point to sow plaster upon it as soon as I can after it is applied, and the more manure I put, the more plaster I sow, more being required to arrest ammonia in its escape.

As an instance of the effect of clover, I will mention that I know a meadow which twenty years ago was a barren waste—the soil heavy, and the water, in the spring months, escaped from it by flowing over its surface: no grass grew upon it. It was summer fallowed and sowed with rye, timothy and clover seed; a little manure was put on a part of it. It has never been manured since, except by plaster; the hay from it has always been sold, and averages about two tons to the acre; it is in clover about one-quarter of the time, and is managed as I have directed in this article; the soil is now very light, and the water soaks away freely.

When will farmers stop murdering their meadows, and keep more stock? which they may do under a better system. Better soil the cattle with green corn, sown for that purpose, or clover, than to pasture so close.—*Amer. Quar. Jour. of Agricul.*

From the Boston Cultivator.

"ON PLANTS SELECTING THEIR FOOD."

Messrs. Editors—There has been some discussion carried on through the columns of your paper, by two of your correspondents, upon the question "whether plants have the power of selecting their food."

I have no wish to enter into the discussion one way or the other, but will submit to your readers a few remarks, or some of my views upon the subject: if they contain any sound sense principles, they may be of some benefit—if not, your intelligent readers will please let them pass for just what they are worth.

To me, there seems to be a striking analogy between animal and vegetable physiology. The growth of the young of man and animals, is kept up by the food they eat. In infancy or extreme youth, nature, when left to herself, has provided in the food (the milk of the mother) all those substances necessary to carry on the growth and increase the strength of the infant, or young animal, for a given period of time; so, in the incipient growth of the plant, the necessary food has been kindly treasured up in the seed—and, by a most beautiful law of nature, the seed is, from the first movements of the germinative principle, made to undergo certain chemical changes, by which the parent seed supplies to the infant plant what the mother's milk does to the infant, or young animal. But the time must come when the young animal and plant must draw its food from some other source, and if the supply of food is sufficient, and contains the several elements necessary to develope every part of the animal and vegetable frame and system, they both continue to grow as well as when fed by the milk of the mother, and the decomposing seed of the plant.

But the analogy does not stop here: when the young animal takes its food from other sources, after being masticated, it is carried to the stomach; there it undergoes decomposition, and is resolved into its proximate or ultimate elements, and forms new combinations; and then it is in a fit state to be taken up by the assimilating vessels—for the inner coating of the intestines is filled with these absorbent vessels, purposely formed to take up these various elements in a liquid form, necessary to perfect the healthy animal and bring it to maturity. But if the food be deficient in phosphate of lime, the bones cease to grow; if a deficiency of iron, the blood ceases to be healthy, and fails to fulfil in parts its office of conveying oxygen to every part of the system; but if the food contains in abundance all the elements necessary to carry on the healthy growth of the animal, just so much is taken from the "daily food" as is required for every part—for the bones, the hair, muscles, blood, &c., and the overplus is voided in the fæces.

Men and animals have not instinct, reason, or discrimination to reject those substances that may prove deleterious to them when mixed with their food. They may go on weeks upon weeks, taking minute quantities of oxide of lead, either in their food or drink, and have no suspicion of it; but it

may, and frequently does, end in a kind of lingering death: they may, unknowingly, at once take arsenic, or some other virulent poison, and in a few hours suffer the consequence, which is sudden death.

The taking of some deleterious substance into the stomach would not kill, were it not taken up by the assimilating vessels. These vessels have the *power* of assimilating from healthy food the requisite kinds and quantities of substances (when controlled by the vital action) to form the perfect animal; but they have *not* the power of rejecting poisonous substances when presented within their reach: the endosmose principle introduces the poison into the system as surely as it does the elements of healthy food.

But to pursue the analogy. The soil in which the plant grows is the stomach; the manure we plow in the soil is the food; decomposition of the food of the plant goes on in the ground, as the food does in the animal stomach; the ends of the rootlets (spongioles) are covered with a thin membrane, and through the ends of the roots, plants take their food from the soil in solution with water, and they can take it in no other way, as far as the roots and the soil are concerned. Here the principle of absorption—endosmose—or internal impulse, plays its part for the plant, as it does for the assimilating vessels in the animal.

If the soil contains no deleterious substances, but has within it all the necessary elements to perfect the plant, in obedience to Nature's law, the plant will take up and appropriate just so much of the several kinds as is necessary to the full development of every part of it—trunk, branch, leaf, blossom, fruit and seed;—and still further: these several parts will contain all those organic and inorganic matters, as far as the particular species of the plant was intended, whether as food for man or beasts, or for whatever purpose they were designed by Infinite Wisdom.

But if the food presented to the roots of plants be deficient in one or more of the elements necessary to form the perfect plant, the plant cannot generate it. It may to the eye of man appear a perfect plant: for instance, it is hay or grass; if the soil is absolutely deficient in phosphoric acid, the plant will lack one of its essential requisites, as food for young and growing cattle, or the cow that is in milk. The bones of young cattle derive their growth from the phosphate of lime, derived from the hay and grass upon which they feed. The milk of cows requires it, and the deficiency of it in our old pastures is the cause of cows, when in milk, being so greedy after bones.

If the soil should be entirely destitute of iron, the hay or grain raised upon such a soil, would be deficient in one of its elements necessary to carry on a healthy state of the animal system. The plant can no more generate (if absent from the soil) phosphoric acid or iron, than it can "Bentonian mint-drops."

Neither can the plant reject, when presented to its roots, a deleterious substance. Soils strongly impregnated with the sulphate or protoride of iron, will as certainly kill, or very much injure the growth of Indian corn, as it is planted on such a soil; and the same results will follow, if other poisonous substances in solution are presented to the roots.

Whether plants have any instinct in the matter of feeding, or the power of rejecting their food, are questions I shall not attempt to argue. God has established certain natural laws that govern the vegetable world, (how some of these laws are administered, is beyond the ken of the human mind to fathom,) and plants grow and mature in obedience to these laws. Twenty different kinds of apples may be made to grow upon one tree or stalk, by grafting so many different scions. The scions are all fed by the sap drawn from the soil by the roots of the tree upon which they are grafted, and the same elements are drawn from the leaves of the several sorts; but how dissimilar the fruit in taste, color, size, and time of ripening! Each remains true to its parent stock, in obedience to those natural laws that govern the vegetable world.

LEVI BARTLETT.

Warner, N. H., Nov. 7, 1845.

EXTRACTS FROM REV. MR. STONE'S ADDRESS BEFORE THE ESSEX AG. SOC.

Soiling.

"Soiling, or feeding milch cows on green fodder, though highly approved by many, is not practised to the most useful extent in this country. Usually, every season, the dairy suffers several weeks, in consequence of 'parched pastures.' The loss of income following, may be effectually prevented by soiling in the barnyard or stall, and a large quantity of manure saved, that dropped in the field, will be in a measure wasted. An Essex Farmer, by this process, kept up the milk of his cows during the most trying period of the past summer, and found ample remuneration for the trouble, in the extra receipts of the dairy. The product of a single acre will suffice for ten or fifteen cows, and 'give them their fill.' Farmers who are deficient in pasture, may, by resorting to green fodder, profitably increase their dairy stock."

Winter Dairy.

"If farmers, who have easy access to market, were to raise larger quantities of carrots, and other roots for their milk stock, with a view to a winter dairy, I am confident they would obtain a profitable return for their labor. With a sufficiency of such food, and a pint of Indian meal to each cow per day, cows that 'come in' in the autumn, (which they should do for a winter dairy) will give a rich supply of milk all winter, and the cream, under the management of a skillful dairy woman, will produce butter of fine appearance and flavor. Fresh made butter, of this character, will always secure a quick sale, and a higher price than the best quality laid down in June or September."

Fruit Culture.

"It is gratifying to notice the increasing attention, in all parts of our country, to the cultivation of fruit. I well recollect when the common doctrine was, let each generation provide its own fruit, and many farmers refused to replenish decaying orchards, because, as they said, their old trees would afford a sufficient supply for their own use while they lived, and those who came after them must take care of themselves. They seemed to have forgotten that those old trees were planted by *their* fathers, who, had they acted on this selfish principle, would have left their farms barren of trees. But worthier sentiments are now prevailing. The agricultural community are becoming more conscious of the duty they owe to posterity to leave the world better than they found it, and acting upon this principle, they erect the worthiest monument to the memory of their ancestors, and evince a commendable regard for those who will one day succeed them.

Formerly, much of the fruit cultivated, was of an inferior quality. But orchardists have discovered that the best kinds can be produced without enhancing the cost, while the demand and price in the market are greatly increased. For common cultivation, the apple is doubtless the most lucrative, and therefore deserves the first place in a farmers' estimation. Beside the increasing domestic consumption, foreign markets are constantly opening, promising a sure demand for the surplus that the most favorable seasons bestow. Winter fruit will always sell at fair prices. A farmer, with a thrifty orchard of Baldwins, Roxbury Russets, R. I. Greenings, and other choice varieties, will derive more income from its cultivation than he can from the same amount of labor employed in any other way.

In some parts of the Commonwealth, the cultivation of cranberries is beginning to engage attention. The demand for this fruit is extensive, the supply limited, and the price consequently high. There is much land suited to their culture, which at present yields little or no income."

Improvement of Land and Increase of Crops.

"The agricultural capabilities of Essex county are far from being exhausted. Not only do large quantities of unimproved land remain to be reclaimed, and rendered among the most valuable, but the crops on that already under cultivation may be greatly increased, with larger profits on the outlay than are now realized. Indian corn and potatoes are among our principal crops. But neither of these does justice to the quantity of ground cultivated. Owing to some erroneous principle in cultivation, shallow plowing, and spreading the manure on two acres that ought to be put on one, the corn crop often does not 'pay well,'—at least, farmers *say* so,—while the complaint is not less frequent, of 'small potatoes and few in a hill.' The late Agricultural Commissioner of Massachusetts, in his survey of this county, presents instances in which 105, 110, 113 1-2, 115, and 117 1-4 bushels of corn have been harvested from an acre, and 400, and 484, and 518 1-2 bushels of potatoes. These were extraordinary yields, and not specimens of what may be commonly expected under the most improved systems of husbandry; but I entirely coincide with the Commissioner, that 'with less than 50 bushels of corn to the acre, and 300 bushels of potatoes, no farmer ought to rest contented.'"

The Potato Disease.

"An alarming phenomenon in the potato culture, at the present moment, is the disease that has proved so destructive, and which appears to be annually extending the sphere of its ravages. Many and contradictory causes have been assigned for this disease; but after perusing the various theories published on the subject, I confess myself still in doubt. I can only say, in the language of Gov. Lincoln, '*It is death to the potato.*' Though we may not now penetrate the mysteries of this disease, we may, at least, learn from it our dependence on the God of the Harvest. Happy for us, if we receive the lesson."

Ichaboe.—Notwithstanding all reports to the contrary, the guano on this island does not yet appear to be entirely exhausted. Lloyd's List of Oct. 14, reports eight vessels as loading at this island.

Mrs. L. H. Sigourney, the poetess, took the premium at the late Fair of the American Institute, for the best pair of domestic *silk stockings*.

From the American Agriculturist.

THE FORCE OF HABIT.

My experience teaches me that I fail much oftener from inattention to *little matters*, than for want of general knowledge in the practice of farming. And this inattention in nine cases out of ten, is the legitimate offspring of habit; and the reason why habit takes such an erroneous direction arises from the fact that our minds are naturally attracted by the *magnitude* of objects, without considering that this magnitude is only attained by the accumulation of single atoms.

To illustrate the importance of this idea, we will suppose two farmers, A and B, start at once in the business of farming with $1000 capital each. A saves six per cent. a year by exact economy, whilst B sinks property at the same rate. For a time, perhaps, we shall hardly be able to notice any difference in their thrift; but in the course of a few years, we find A a wealthy farmer, and B fast sinking to poverty. A fraction short of twelve years, would suffice, at compound interest, to place A in possession of $2000, and B with $500. Twelve years more would give A $4000, and B $250. Another twelve years would give A $8000, and B $125. Thus we see the result of habit in these two men in the important results produced, supposing Providence favored both alike. But this is not all: habits generally acquire strength with the lapse of time. The man who sinks in the ratio of six per cent. at first, would soon reach twelve, and so on, until he was ruined.

Suppose, now, we look at the practice of these men a little in detail. They neither of them are dissipated men in their general habits, and are good at work. But A has learned to calculate a little closer. He knows it requires no more to keep a good cow than a bad one. Hence, then, we find him in possession of a little better stock. His cows give at least a quart of milk each per day more than B's; his sheep yield a little more wool, and his wool, in addition, is a little finer. Here, then, he saves a few dollars. A also seizes with avidity a few leisure hours to haul his muck, etc. for manure; whilst B, feeling a little tired, or the oxen being in the pasture at some distance, thinks it best to omit it until he can hire a hand a day and get a good lot of it. Thus A has a little more manure, and of course a little better crop. So we see A not only producing more, but the foundation of his prosperity widen in every direction.

But perhaps some one will say we can't help habit—it's second nature. Asking your pardon, sirs, I demur to this statement. You have the power of reasoning and the faculty of judging given you by your Creator, and no earthly power can hinder your exercising it. Accustom yourselves, then, in every branch of your business, to ask this one question—Is the method I propose, the best, all things considered? Make a calculation of the profit or loss of every crop, and increase or diminish each kind, as more or less profitable; having reference to the permanent improvement of the soil. I have frequently been surprised at the results I have obtained in such calculations, and frequently altered my course very much to my advantage.

But you may not only improve your own habits by the discreet use of your judgment, but your domestic animals have habits which you may mould to your advantage. I will illustrate this by one very simple incident. I have a considerable range of woodland pasture, and I find by giving my cattle their salt at night near the outlet of the pasture, they soon learn to resort to that spot at that time of day. Another incident may be worth relating. I had come to the conclusion that a small lot of hens would more than pay for their keeping, in destroying worms, &c., without any reference to their eggs or chickens, provided I could learn them to keep out of the grain. Now, for two years past, I have not had a mite of trouble with them, though running at large all the time, and grain within ten rods of the house and barn. The simple expedient adopted was, the turning down of a lot of grain for them to go to as they pleased. And the way they turned out the eggs in consequence, was a caution to those who neglect to feed their biddies.

J. H. Jenne.

Peru, Me., 1845.

SINGULAR ACTION OF GUANO.

The most singular and apparently mysterious case of the action of guano, occurred on the farm, of John L. Tucker, Esq., of the Tremont House. He had a piece of grass land which was overrun with sorrel. Thinking guano might destroy it, he mixed a quantity with dry loam, and spread it, last spring, over the field as a top-dressing. The result was, a most luxuriant crop of grass, without a particle of sorrel. This can be well understood; for a farmer has only to manure highly, and the grass will soon choke off the sorrel, which only grows on poor soils.

Having emptied his bags of guano, after beating them well, they were laid down on a piece of pine barren, which, as is well known, is merely a dry crust of moss and lichens, with here and there a few diminutive strings of poor sorrel creeping through. On removing these bags early in September, what was Mr Tucker's astonishment at finding a thick, tangled mass of the most luxuriant sorrel, such as is in great request with him, for the elegant French cookery of his house! I have now before me a single turf, which he kindly sent me, two and a half feet long, one foot wide, one-half of which is pine-barren, the other half this beautiful sorrel.

This was a sore puzzle, that, in one case, as he thought, the guano should kill the sorrel, and in the other make it grow luxuriantly. I have already accounted for the first action of guano; and the second is equally simple. On the pine-barren, there was no grass, or any other vegetation, except the thick matting of moss and lichens, and the small strings of sorrel. Moss and lichens, when decomposed, form a good soil, and this decomposition is quickly effected by the salts in guano. These are well-known facts. Here, then, is a bed of soil ready for vegetation. Sorrel is a plant containing a large quantity of *oxalic acid;* and two of the ingredients in guano are oxalate of ammonia and oxalate of lime. We have, then, a bed of soil, ammonia, lime, potash, soda, and *oxalic acid*—everything requisite to make sorrel grow, and no grass to choke it off by rank luxuriance. These circumstances are surely sufficient to account for the growth in question, and to reconcile the seeming contradiction.—*Teschemacher's Essay on Guano.*

A Good Thing Well Said.—A subscriber to an Episcopal paper, in sending his subscription money, writes to the editor—"I wish to pay for my paper in advance, for I never like to read an *editor's* paper as well as I do *my own.*"

Ninety tons of butter were recently received from one town in Vermont, by a Boston dealer.

From Colman's European Agriculture.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN ENGLAND.

England may with reason boast of the fineness of her fruits, especially as, in this matter, she has to contend with the adverse influences of temperature and climate. The country abounds in greenhouses, hot-houses, conservatories and forcing-beds. All the appliances of art, and the highest measure of horticultural skill, are exerted to counteract the unfavorable circumstances under which their cultivation is carried on.

The hot-house or green-house productions of England, (such as pine-apples and grapes,) are not surpassed by any which I have ever tasted. The grapes are magnificent in size and delicious in taste. I cannot say that there are no native grapes, and none growing in the open air; but I do not recollect meeting with any. It seems to me to be the humidity of the climate of England, rather than its low temperature, which prevents the ripening of many fruits and plants, which are grown to perfection in an equally high latitude on the western continent. It remains to be seen what will be the result of that remarkable system of drainage, which is here prosecuted in different parts of the country with great spirit, and which bids fair to become general, if not universal. Its sanatary effects upon the human, as well as the brute animal, are said to be already, in some places, determined.

The smaller fruits—such as strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, and currants—are cultivated with great success. Of a kind of strawberries, called the Alpine Pine, and more properly the Elton Pine, the size is most remarkable, ten of them, as I saw in the market of Dundee, where they are cultivated in perfection, actually weighing a pound avoirdupois. I saw others as large at the horticultural exhibitions, called by a different name; but those were forced in pots in green-houses.

Of plums there are several kinds; damsons are common; the Orleans plum, the large Egg-plum, resembling what I think is called with us, Bolmar's Washington, are the most esteemed; but they are not abundant, and I cannot say that those which I have seen are equal to those seen in the best markets of the United States, and especially, of all other places, at Albany, in New York, where this fruit is found in a degree of perfection and abundance which I have seen no where else. Cherries are plenty in the market, and in great perfection; the Tartarian, the Bigarreau, the large Black-heart and Mazzard, predominate.

Peaches, nectarines, and apricots, are seen occasionally at private tables, and in great perfection, though in very small quantities, at the great market, and at some of the splendid fruit shops in London. Peaches are grown in favorable situations on open walls, but in general under glass, and early in the season are forced by an artificial climate. They are brought to great perfection in appearance, and command, when first they appear in the market, two guineas (or about ten dollars and a half) per dozen.

The luxury in which the higher and wealthier classes in England live, is probably unequalled in any country, and is, perhaps, not surpassed in the history of Roman grandeur or Oriental magnificence. They expend, whether willing or unwilling, with a profusion which it is difficult for those of us brought up in the school of restricted and humble means to understand; and in respect to true liberality, there is probably the same diversity of disposition and character to be found as among

those, who, instead of dispensing guineas, are obliged to keep their reckoning in pence and farthings. I do not forget that excessive wealth, as well as extreme penury, have each their peculiar moral dangers. But the liberal expenditures of the rich, even upon many articles of pure luxury, are a great public benefit. Certainly, no immoral indulgence is ever to be justified or excused. I do not say that it is the best appropriation of the money: that point I shall not now discuss: but certainly the person who gives his two guineas for his dozen of peaches, encourages industry, rewards horticultural skill, stimulates improvement, excites a wholesome competition, and would surely be doing much worse with them, if he kept them parsimoniously and uselessly hoarded in his coffers.

The apples in England are in general inferior, excepting for cooking purposes. The superiority of our Newton Pippin is everywhere admitted and proclaimed. Of other of our fine apples—such as the Golden Russet, the Baldwin, the Blue Pearmain, and many others—I have seen none, though it is not to be confidently inferred, from that circumstance, that none are imported. Large quantities of apples are sent from the United States to England, and sold to advantage.

The English have not yet learned the value of apples as food for stock. Many of the farmers in the United States, after repeated trials, both for fatting swine, for neat stock, and even for milch cows, rate them in value in the proportion of three bushels of apples as equal to two of potatoes.

Of pears I have seen several good kinds, but none comparable to the Seckel or the Bartlett. This, however, may be mere matter of personal taste. Melons are grown only under glass, and by artificial heat.

The vegetables grown for table use are many of them in appearance of the finest kinds. The potatoes grown in England are in general of a superior quality, though I think them inferior to the potatoes grown in Nova Scotia. In Nova Scotia, they have not only the advantage of a climate as cool as that of England, but likewise of a virgin soil, which circumstances seem particularly favorable both to the growth and the quality of the potato, and nothing of the kind which I have eaten, is equal to a fine Nova Scotia potato. In our old soils, surcharged with manure, the potatoes are always inferior in quality. In Ireland, deemed of all other countries the adopted home of the potato, I was seldom able to find one that was even eatable. This arose, however, not from the quality of the root, but from the mode of cooking—the Irish always desiring, to use their own expression, "to have a stone in the middle;" so that the aim of the cook was only to boil, or rather scald, the outside of the potato, and leave the inside as hard as when it went into the pot. The advantage of this, as gravely stated to me, was, that they were *longer in digestion*, and therefore gave more support. This may be sound philosophy *in Ireland*, where the stomachs of the poor find equal difficulty in *getting*, as they do in *keeping* what they get. It would be inhuman to treat the extreme destitution of these poor wretches with any levity; but I found this mode of cooking prevailing also at the tables of the rich and noble; and after seeing such an abuse of one of the most useful and nutritious products of the earth, I was half inclined to advise him to try a few granite pebbles, and see whether they would not serve the digestive organs still longer. It was a curiosity to me in London, likewise, to see them selling in the market, by the quart, the small, not half-grown, not *quarter*-grown potatoes—not even so large as cherries, and many not larger than peas; and these were bought up as luxuries. I should quite as soon think of sitting down to a dish of boiled bullets, or duck-shot; and I should suppose with almost equal chance of nourishment.

Few beans are cultivated for the table, excepting the Windsor bean, which is a coarse vegetable, and a small bean, used like our string beans, and called the French bean. Our Lima bean, and other rich pole beans, I have not met with.

Peas are abundant in market, are brought in early, and continued late, and are of several different kinds, the Charlton pea (so called from the town where the earliest peas are grown,) being preferred as an early pea. In order to bring peas to early maturity, or rather to a state for sale, a ridge of land or high furrow is thrown up in a direction from east to west, and the peas are planted on the south side of this ridge at the bottom of the furrow. In this way, the young plants are protected from the cold winds on one side, and enjoy the warm rays of the sun reflected on the other. This is a simple and excellent arrangement, especially in a climate where, we may say, with some truth, that a handful of sunshine is worth much more than its weight in gold.

Carrots and turnips are of the finest quality, and always sold in bunches. The Orange carrot seems to be preferred for the table; the Belgian White for stock. Onions are generally eaten small. They are planted early in the autumn, and gathered in July and August. Spinach, endive, cresses, lettuces, are always in the market, either forced or grown in the open ground. Blood beets I have scarcely seen, either in the markets or on table, unless pickled in vinegar. The fine egg-plant, so common in the New York and Philadelphia market, does not appear to be known here. That most luscious vegetable, the sweet potato, of course cannot be grown.

Of squashes, they can scarcely be said to have any. They have a very inferior kind, which they dignify with the name of vegetable marrow; but of our fine crook-neck and Canada squashes, or our autumnal Marrow nothing is seen. Of our delicious green Indian corn, of course they have none. Cucumbers are always in the market.

There are four species of plants, or edible vegetables, in which, it must be admitted, the English markets cannot be surpassed, at least in the size of their products. These are asparagus, rhubarb, cauliflowers, and cabbages. The asparagus and rhubarb are gigantic, the rhubarb more especially, which is often brought to market three and four feet in length, and of the size of a woman's arm—some women, of course, excepted. The early asparagus is forced under glass; the later is forced in the open ground by all the appliances of manure. The quantity of rhubarb consumed is enormous, for it comes not in baskets, but piled up in four-horse wagons in bulk. The asparagus shows the want of sun, and appears as if grown in a cellar, the mere head of the early kinds being the only part eatable.

I have one remark to make in regard to English vegetables and fruits, that will not, I hope, be deemed ill-humored—which is, that, though cultivated with extraordinary skill, with the exceptions I have above named, they are tasteless, and without that fine relish which one would like to find. I think it is Voltaire who says "that the only ripe fruit to be found in England is a baked apple." I cannot accede to a censure so sweeping, but it is plain that their fruits and vegetables want ripeness and flavor. This may arise partly from a deficiency of heat from the sun, and partly free from the excessive forcing of their vegetables, in the vicinity of large markets, by unlimited quantities of manure. I know how difficult it must be to make an Englishman believe this statement; for, under the national peculiarity of a large endowment of self-esteem, which their Anglo-Saxon descendants over the water seem to have inherited, a genuine Englishman thinks that nothing out of his own country can possibly be so good as what is to be found in it. Now, in *intellectual* fruits, and the products of art and science, I will not dispute their pre-eminence—only hoping that, while they are reposing upon their laurels, a young and ambitious rival, in a fair and generous competition, may be up with them as soon as possible, and distance them, if he can. But climates and sunshine are not under human control; and the fact which I have stated, is in my mind established, and not the result of mere prejudice, of which, on any subject, if I were conscious of it, I should be ashamed.

TAKING A HINT.

It is very surprising to see how slow men are to take a hint. The frost destroys about half the bloom on fruit trees: everybody prognosticates the loss of fruit; instead of that, the *half* that remains is larger, fairer, and higher-flavored than usual; and the trees, instead of being exhausted, are ready for another crop the next year. Why don't the owner *take the hint*, and thin out his fruit every bearing year? But no, the next season sees his orchard overloaded, fruit small, and not well formed; yet he always *boasts* of that first mentioned crop, without profiting by the lesson it teaches.

We heard a man saying, "the best crop of celery I ever saw, was raised by old John ———, on a spot of ground where the wash from the barnyard ran into it after every hard shower." Did he *take the hint*, and apply liquid manure to his celery trenches? Not at all.

We knew a case where a farmer subsoiled a field and raised crops in consequence which were the admiration of the neighborhood; and for years the field showed the advantages of deep handling. But we could not learn that a single farmer in the neighborhood took the hint. The man who acted thus wisely, sold his farm, and his successor pursued the old way of surface-scratching.

A stanch farmer complained to us of his soil as too loose and light; we mentioned ashes as worth trying; "well, now you mention it, I believe it will do good. I bought a part of my farm from a man who was a wonderful fellow to save up ashes, and around his cabin it lay in heaps. I took away the house and ordered the ashes to be scattered, and to this day I notice that when the plow runs along that spot, the ground turns up moist and close-grained." It is strange that he never took the hint.

A farmer gets a splendid crop of corn or other grain from off a grass or clover ley. Does he take the hint? Does he adopt the system which shall allow him every year just such a sward to put his grain on? No, he hates book-farming, and scientific farming, and "this notion of rotation;" and jogs on the old way.—*Indiana Far. and Gard.*

A Shame.—In Providence, R. I., landlords will not let houses to people who have children! This is a war against "home industry."—*Maine Cult.*

[Rhode Island has an excellent "Society for the *Encouragement* of Domestic Industry."]

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Dec. 3, 1845.

GEOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE.

Mr Editor—Believing that some knowledge of Geology is necessary, and in many cases would be useful to the farmer, I think he should try to make himself somewhat familiar with the subject—at least, so far as it may be applied to his farming operations.

In order to do this, he *need* not study into all the theories of the various writers upon Geology, nor attempt to reconcile these theories with the Mosaic history of creation; nor "bother" his head whether the six days of creation, in the Bible account, were literally six days of twentyfour hours each. That record is sufficient for the purpose for which it was intended. There *was* a time when man, and animals, and plants began to exist; but we need not quiz our brains in vain attempts to ascertain whether the egg or the bird was created *first*, or whether the acorn or the oak tree was made *first*. With God, it was as possible to speak the full grown ostrich into existence, as an egg: just as *impossible* for *man* to make an acorn, as the full grown oak.

But there seems to be so much evidence that there elapsed an incalculably long period of time from the first consolidation of the crust of this globe, till it became in a fit state to be inhabited by the present races of beings, that I shall just glance at some of them.

That this globe has been subjected to inconceivable revolutions and changes in bygone time, is so palpably evident that it is unnecessary to offer any proof; and there also seems to be most conclusive proofs that there have been many races, or species of animals that once inhabited this earth, or its waters, that have become *extinct*, and that these extinct species of animals became so before this earth was in a fit state to be inhabited by *man*, seems also to be very clear.

That the destruction of race after race of these animals of the "olden time," was effected by the changes and revolutions alluded to, is too obvious, to those who have studied into the subject, to require any farther proof or argument.

All these changes, to the student in geology, are replete with the most intense interest. To him, all these convulsions and throes that have fractured and rent asunder the solid strata—every deluge of water that has swept over the ancient continents—the elevations of the bed of the ocean, and depressions of the land beneath its surface—to him appear to have had reference to that future condition of the earth when it should become the habitation of beings capable of enjoying and appreciating the wonders around them.

Though there are many things in geology which, at the first view, seem to have but little or no bearing upon agriculture, yet when more fully investigated, they all seem incontestible proofs of the great design—a perfect adaptation of things to the present races of men, animals, and the vegetable productions of this globe,—and these things are not the results of chance, but the results of the wisdom and power of that All-intelligent Mind, to whom all past, present, and future are alike.

My object in writing this, is more particularly to point out some geological facts that have a direct bearing upon the subject of agriculture: so I waive all matters previous to the *last* great deluge of waters that once swept over this entire continent, with an irresistible force, that carried in its course rocks of many hundred tons weight, and twirled them along from their native beds, as though they had been but corks. The general course or current of this mighty rush of waters, is as well marked or defined, as the iron tracks upon a modern railroad. Its course was a little east of South, and west of North. The grooves and scratches are now to be seen upon all recently uncovered surfaces of solid ledges, as if but made yesterday, or as legible as the newly turned furrows of a plowed field, and the hard surfaces of the rocks are more or less polished by the drift of sand, pebbles and stones carried along by the current of water.

One of the designs of this was, doubtless, the commingling and mixing up of those *inorganic* matters that enter into the composition of plants and animals: these are potash, soda, silex, lime, magnesia, oxide of iron, oxide of manganese, sulphur, phosphorus, and chlorine—these with the organic matters, oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen and carbon, make up the sum total of animal and vegetable substances.

And here, perhaps, it may be useful to pause, and take a glance at the analogy subsisting between the soil, the vegetable, and the animal composition.

"The dead earth, the living plant, and the moving animal, are intimately connected. Take a quantity of soil and burn it in the fire; its color will change, and it will diminish in weight. A part of it burns away; but the greater proportion resists the action of fire, and remains behind. Take a plant of any kind, and put it in the fire, it will all nearly disappear; but a small quantity of ash will remain, which the fire does not affect. Do the same with the bone, or flesh of an animal, and the result will be the same. It will burn like the plant, but, like it, will leave something behind which defies the action of the fire. Thus the soil, the plant, and the animal alike consist of two kinds of matter: one which burns away, or is combustible—another, which does not burn away, or is incombustible. To the former, chemists give the name of *organic*—to the latter, that of *inorganic* matter."

"In the soil, however, the organic matter rarely exceeds one-tenth of the whole weight, and is usually considerably less, while in the plant and the animal, it is rarely less, and is usually more than nine-tenths of the whole."

But the analogy goes further than this. The mineral constituents of a good soil for our cultivated crops, contain all those inorganic matters before named, viz. potash, soda, &c. The ashes of plants contain precisely the same substances—also, the ashes of the bone and muscle of animals yield the same substances. The fresh bone when burned, leaves one-half its weight; the fresh muscle, (lean meat) not more than one-hundredth part; yet the small proportion in the muscle is as essential to its healthy existence, as the large quantity in the bone. Thus it will be seen that the soil furnishes these essentials to the plant, the plant to the animal. "Man, the highest of living things, not only treads upon the dead earth, but grows out of it, and is only separated from it by the intervention of vegetable life. How truly is the earth our mother, and we children of clay."

But to return to the subject of geology, upon which I started. I again repeat, that I believe a tolerable knowledge of geology, in connection with agricultural chemistry, would be useful; and that the farmer who possessed this knowledge, would have a decided advantage over one who was ignorant of these scientific principles.

The source from which the inorganic substances of plants are drawn—and how they are obtained—how the soil is drained of them—and how they may most economically be replaced—are all questions that materially affect the interest of the farmer upon the old and long cultivated soils of New England.

And to those young men who intend making agriculture their business, I cannot too strongly urge upon them the study of geology and agricultural chemistry.

There is not a farmer of common observation, but has seen that certain soils seem natural, or congenial, to this or that particular kind or species of plant. There are certain reasons *why it is so*—and the farmer should know these reasons; and, by a knowledge of the sciences above named, he *can* know them.

Perhaps I may hereafter, as I intimated, attempt to point out some geological facts having a bearing upon agriculture, and the source from whence some of the inorganic substances of plants are derived, &c.

Nov. 14, 1845. L. B.

☞Bro. Holmes, of the Maine Farmer, (more fortunate than his brethren of the press generally,) has an efficient editorial assistant in the *devil!*—we mean the "*printer's* devil"—and a *right smart* chap he is, too, in wielding the pen. From his "Scribblings" in the last number of that paper, we clip the following "touch of his quality" as a writer, and desire our readers to consider it as addressed directly from *us* to them:—

Why don't you Communicate?—"We" have now twentythree hundred subscribers to the Farmer, most of them agriculturists, and yet—we blush to say it—out of this strong phalanx of practical men, there are only four or five who write out their thoughts, and give the results of their experiments to the public through the medium of our humble sheet. This is too bad—or, rather, we may say as Jeff used to—it is *piggish*. Don't say you *can't* write, for no one will credit the story, not even the "*Devil*" himself. There 's not a man among ye but what has some facts, important ones, perhaps, stowed away beneath the shelter of his cranium, which might be thrown before the public in fifteen minutes' time. These facts ought not to lie dormant and monopolized, but should be given to the world, to help others out of, or to prevent their getting into, difficulty, and to augment the fund of practical knowledge. It takes every body to know every thing. New and important facts are brought to light every day, and should be proclaimed the world over.

Come, friends, pick your flints, and blaze away. The evenings are growing lengthy, and will soon afford you a good opportunity for communing with your brother farmers. By doing thus, you will make the paper interesting and profitable to all—and, what will be as pleasing to yourselves, have the satisfaction of knowing that you have done your *duty*. Fire away, then, and our *Boss* will pay the postage.

Carrots for Hogs.—We suggested awhile since, the trial of carrots, beets, parsnips, &c., for fattening swine, in lieu of potatoes. A farming friend writes us as follows:—"I have no faith in carrots as fatteners of hogs. I have steamed up cartloads upon cartloads, this fall, and fed them to a dozen and a half of hogs and shoats, and it is a *man's* work to keep them from squealing. But carrots are first rate for horses and cows—and no mistake."

Potatoes.—Somebody has made an estimate of the amount of potatoes produced this year in the United States. It would puzzle the cutest Yankee calculator to estimate the probable amount of the produce that will *escape the rot*.

☞A speculator in poultry, in this city, it is said, lost $500 by the bad weather of Thanksgiving day. If some of the flour speculators lose no more than that, they may thank God and take courage.—*Mail.*

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietor of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass in a shaded Northerly exposure, to the week ending Nov. 30.

Nov. 1845.		7 A.M.	12, M.	5, P.M.	Wind.
Monday,	24	30	25	30	N. W.
Tuesday,	25	16	36	35	N. W.
Wednesday,	26	30	44	35	E.
Thursday,	27	50	53	52	S. E.
Friday,	28	24	27	24	W.
Saturday,	29	11	24	24	N. W.
Sunday,	30	23	32	34	E.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Dec. 1, 1845.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At market 650 Beef Cattle, 150 Stores, 3300 Sheep and 820 Swine.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle*—Extra $5.00. First quality $4,50 a $4,75. Second quality $4,00 a $4,25. Third quality $2,75 a $3,75.

Barrelling Cattle.—Mess $3,25. No. 1 $2,75.

Stores—Yearlings $5 a 7; two years old $7 a 14; three years old $15 a 24.

Sheep.—Sales from $1 to $2 12 1-2.

Swine.—Lots to peddle 3 1-2 for Sows, 4 1-2 for Barrows. At retail 3 1-2 to 5 1-2.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $2 00 a 2 25 per bushel. Red Top 50 to 60 cents. Clover—Northern, 10 to 11c.—Southern 9 a 10c. Flax Seed. $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed. $2 25 a 2 50 per bushel. Millet, 1 75 to 2 00.

GRAIN. The demand for Corn during the past week was rather light, and at the close dealers were very reluctant to operate beyond their actual wants.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 88 a 90—Southern, round yellow, 00 a 88—Southern flat yellow, 83 a 86—do. do. white 79 a 80—do New Orleans, 77 a 85—Barley 00 a 00—Rye, Northern, 88 a 90—do. Southern, 00 a 00—Oats Southern, 48 a 50— Northern do. 00 to 00—Beans, per bushel 1 75 a 2 00.—Shorts, per double bush. 50 a 55—Bran 00 a 40.

FLOUR. This has been a dull week, on account of the advance demanded on the arrival of the steamer not being sustained, and consequently a gradual receding on the part of holders.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. new, $6 50 a 6 75—do. wharf, $0 00 a 6 50—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 0 00—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $0 00 a 0 00—Fredericksburg, low l'd new $6 37 a 6 50—Alexandria, wharf, 6 37 a 6 50—Georgetown, $0 00 a 6 75—Extra do. 7 00 a 0 00—Richmond Canal, $0 00 a 0 00—do. City, $7 25 a 0 00—Petersburgh, City, $0 00 a 0 00—do. Country $0 00 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $6 75 a 7 00— do fancy brands, $7 00 a 7 12—Ohio via Canal, $6 50 a 6 75—do do New Orleans, cash $0 00 a 0 00. Rye, $0 00 a 5 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $3 75 a 0 00.

PROVISIONS. The transactions of the week have been to a moderate extent, prices for Pork being a shade lower; Beef is a little firmer, with small sales at some advance.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $9 25 a 9 50—Navy—$8 00 a 8 50.—No. 1, $0 00 a 0 00—do Prime $5 50 a 0 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $15 00 a 15 50—do Clear $14 50 a 15 00 do. Mess, $13 50 a 14 00—do Prime $10 75 a 11 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 00 a 0 00 —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00—Butter, ship'ng, 12½ a 14—do store. uninspected, 13 a 15—do dairy, 15 cts. a 18—Lard, No. 1. Boston ins. 8¼ a 9—do South and Western, 0 a 0— Hams, Boston, 8 a 9—Southern and Western, 8 a 9—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal 5¼ a 8—do new milk, 7¼ a 0.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad. val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts per pound.

There has been a fair demand, to supply the calls of the manufacturers, and prices continue without any important change.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 40 a 45 c.—American full blood, do 37 a 40—Do. 3-4 do 34 a 35—Do. 1-2 do 32 a 33—1-4 and common do 29 a 31—Smyrna Sheep, washed, 20 a 22—Do. unwashed, 10 a 15—Bengasi do 6 a 12—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 10 a 14—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 33 a 38—No. 1 do. do. do. 30 a 32—No. 2 do do do 23 a 25—No. 3 do do do 14 a 17.

There continues a fair demand, with sales during the week at 25c. per lb. Some parcels are held at a higher rate.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

1st sort Mass. 1844, lb. 25 a 26; 2d do 0 a 0.

HAY, 20 to 21 per ton—Eastern Screwed $17 to 18.

EGGS, 15 to 18.

FARM FOR SALE.

A Farm in Medfield, formerly owned and improved by Capt. William Peters. Said Farm is pleasantly situated near the centre of the village, upon the main road to Hartford, and is passed by several daily stages. It consists of about 65 acres of excellent Land, under good cultivation, is well watered and fenced, and of remarkable easy tillage. The house is large and most thoroughly built, and the barns and other out buildings are convenient and in good repair. There are many Fruit Trees of the best kinds, most of which are grafted and in full bearing.

Also, a two story Dwelling House, in good repair, with an excellent garden and fruit trees nearly opposite the above, and a large Pasture and an Orchard within a short distance.

The whole or part of the above estate will be sold on reasonable terms.

For further information apply to the editor of this paper, to Elias Phinney, Esq., Lexington, or to the subscriber on the premises. CHARLES C. SEWALL.

Medfield, Sept. 23, 1845.

Guano! Guano!

Just received and for sale in lots to suit purchasers, 20 tons African and South American Guano, of superior quality, the best ever brought into this market. The African, which is part of the cargo of the brig Samos was analyzed by one of the first chemists of this country, and pronounced to be of the first quality; it has been fairly tested by many of the farmers and gardeners in the vicinity of Boston, and has fully equalled their highest expectations. We can fully recommend the South American, which has also been carefully analyzed, and found to be a splendid article, and very superior, being free from stones and hard substances. For sale by the ton, bbl. or bag. Orders addressed to JOSEPH BRECK & CO., 51 and 52 North Market street, will be promptly attended to.

Boston, March 25, 1845.

ESSAY ON GUANO.

For sale at Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Teschemacher's Essay on Guano.—describing its properties and the best methods of its application in Agriculture and Horticulture, with the value of importations from different localities; founded on actual analyses, and on personal experiments upon numerous kinds of trees, vegetables, flowers, &c. Price 25 cents. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Nov. 4.

HORTICULTURAL TOOLS.

A few cases of superior Horticultural Tools, for gentlemen or ladies' use For sale by JOS. BRECK & CO. 51 and 52 North Market Street.

HERDS GRASS OF EXTRA QUALITY.

The subscribers have received a few tierces of extra fine *HERDS GRASS SEED*, perfectly free from all foul seed, which they can confidently recommend to farmers for August sowing. Also, their usual supply of good *GRASS SEED*, of all kinds. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Nos. 51 & 52, North Market street, up stairs.

WANTED,

A situation as *Gardener*, by a man who thoroughly understands his business: would have no objections to conduct a small Farm, if required. Inquire at this office.

Sept. 10. t f.

GEDDES'S HARROW.

This excellent implement, considered a great improvement on all other kinds, is for sale at the N. England Agricultural Warehouse, 51 and 52 North Market street, by

May 21. J. BRECK & CO.

BOUSSINGAULT'S RURAL ECONOMY.

Boussingault's Rural Economy; Price $1,75. Downing's Book of Fruits; price $1,75. Stable Keeper's Companion; price $1,00. Also, a general assortment of *AGRICULTURAL WORKS.*

Boston, Sept, 10, 1845 JOS. BRECK & CO.

WANTED,

A situation by a Gardener, who has good recommendations. Gentlemen about making improvements in their grounds will do well by employing him. Apply at this Office. Nov 4

2000 SUPERB TULIP BULBS.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. offer for sale the celebrated and costly bed of *TULIPS* imported for the Public Garden, and pronounced by competent judges to be the finest collection in this country. The subscribers obtained the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's premium of $8 for the best thirty distinct varieties which were taken from this bed. They will be sold at the very low price of $3 per dozen, which is not one half the cost of many single bulbs in the collection. There never was a better opportunity for amateurs to indulge themselves with a bed of these truly splendid flowers. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Nov. 11. Nos. 51 & 52 North Market St.

MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM EAGLE PLOWS.

The subscribers have for sale at their extensive Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 & 52 N. Market street, *MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM IMPROVED EAGLE PLOWS.*

Mr. Martin's Plows combine new and important improvements adapting them to the different qualities of soil and the various modes and systems of culture His Eagle Plows, as improved, are much longer, the mouldboard, landside and point, or share, all extended without any addition to the width or heel in its work; thus adapting this Plow to the more perfect turning under of the greensward, and inverting of the furrow-slice, so desirable in greensward plowing. The principle of these Plows is such, from where the furrow-slice is received upon the mouldboard to where it leaves it, that it enables the Plow to take up the furrow-slice with the greatest possible ease, bearing equally and lightly over the whole surface of the mouldboard, turning it over with the least possible bending or twisting, and preserving it flat, smooth and unbroken, laying the furrow-slices closely and compactly side by side, and creating but slight friction upon the face of the mouldboard in passing through the soil. Thus the Plow requires but very little power of draft beyond what is necessary to cut out the furrow-slice.

In testing the quality of Plows, the power by which it is moved, the ease with which it is handled, and the manner in which it completes the work, are three important points, all of which are wisely, accurately and judiciously preserved in these improved Plows.

The character of these Plows for ease of draft and management, and the excellence of their work, though well established in the minds of the farming community, were most fully and satisfactorily exhibited to the public at the grand trial of Plows by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, at Worcester, October 9th, 1844, whose able and impartial committee awarded the highest premium of $50 to B. Martin, for the best Plow, for doing the best work with the least draft, in a trial open to the whole Union—this Plow running in its natural course, and keeping its true position, without any effort of the plowman, and turning a furrow 12 inches wide and 6 inches deep, with a much less draft than any other Plow on the ground.

These Plows, as improved, are considered to be nearest to perfection of any implements of the kind in this country, as well in respect to material and workmanship, as in form of construction.

At the late Cattle-Show and Plowing-Match of the Worcester County Agricultural Society, in the heart of that most valuable agricultural county, B. Martin's Plow received the highest and most enthusiastic commendation from intelligent and experienced practical farmers, who know and are the most competent judges.

His castings are of a superior kind, the workmanship not inferior to any other Plows in this country, and his timber being the very best of white oak; and every farmer knows that good timber in his Plows is of the utmost importance—all of which in fact renders B. Martin's Plow the very article every farmer wants. The high character of these Plows is abundantly sustained by a continued and extended patronage, which the manufacturer hopes by his efforts and exertions to retain Being himself an experienced Plow-Maker, he will not spare any exertions in order to render his Plows a superior article.

Gentlemen are requested to call and examine these Plows before they purchase. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, March 24.

CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it togood advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street.

JOS. BRECK & CO.

FARMERS' ALMANACK FOR 1846.

For sale at the N. E. Farmer Office, Thomas's Almanac for 1846, by the hundred or dozen.

Boston, Nov. 4.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Bright One.—The brightest little chap, for his size and age, that we ever saw, was one whom we came across amusing himself in torturing frogs in a spring upon a road-side in New Jersey, out of sight and hearing of any human habitation.

Man is a talking animal, and he must talk. So we, not having had an opportunity of exchanging a word with a fellow-mortal for two hours, could n't resist the temptation of talking to this little bare-headed and bare-footed brat.

"Where do you live, my lad?" inquired we, just as he had stirred up a big bull-frog from the mud with a mullen-stock.

"I do n't live no where only at home."

"Where is your home?"

"Over the hill, next house to Mr Wagner's."

"Have you parents living?"

"What 's them?"

"I mean, have you a father and mother?"

"Yes, sir; but pap's went dead a good while, and mother says she wont't stand it, 'cause it 's too hard work."

"What work does she do?"

"Milk the cow, and all sort o' things."

"Is your mother a pious woman—a good christian?"

"No, sir—she 's *a Dutchman!*"

Here the little genius went to stirring up the frogs again, as much as to say, do n't disturb me with further interrogation; and so we left him.—*N. Y. Mercury.*

One Way to Raise the Cider.—We are told that not long since, a man living on Petticoat Hill, in ———, and who, by the way, is a dear lover of cider—when he can get nothing stronger—got up one morning as dry as dust, and no cider! What to do, was a puzzle to him. As he stood at his door, cogitating upon his forlorn condition, he noticed his neighbor's horse quietly feeding in a pasture, at a little distance, when an expedient suggested itself to him, which he forthwith proceeded to practice. He went into the house, took his gallon jug, went out into the pasture, caught the horse, and led him by the foretop to his neighbor's dwelling.

"Hallon!" said he, as the owner approached him, "here 's your horse!"

"Well," said the owner, "what of it?"

"Why nothin'," replied the other, "only I caught him in my *beans* this mornin', and so I thought if you was a mind to fill this ere jug with cider, *I'd call it even!*"

The jug was filled, and the horse "went to grass" again.—*Hampshire Herald.*

"Why, Siah! I 'm astonished!" said a worthy deacon—"did n't we take you into our church, a short time since?"

"I b'lieve so," hiccupped Siah, who was unmistakeably *balmed*—"I b'lieve you (hic) did—but between you and (hic) me, it was leetle the (hic) darndest *take in* you ever (hic) saw or heard of."

"How will your county go this year?" asked a zealous politician of Philadelphia, of a citizen of Bucks county.

"Vell, I can't tell much: I does not know," replied the honest Dutchman: "de man vat tells us how to vote, has not yet been round."

An Affectionate Spirit.—We sometimes meet with men who seem to think that any indulgence in affectionate feeling is a weakness. They will return from a journey, and greet their families with distant dignity, and move among their children with the cold and lofty splendor of an iceberg, surrounded with its broken fragments. There is hardly a more unnatural sight on earth, than one of these families without hearts.

A father had better extinguish his boy's eyes, than take away his heart. Who that has experienced the joys of friendship, and knows the worth of sympathy and affection, would not rather lose all that is beautiful in nature's scenery, than be robbed of the hidden treasures of his heart? Who would not rather bury his wife than bury his love for her? Who would not rather follow his child to the grave, than entomb his parental affection?

Cherish, then, your heart's best affections. Indulge in the warm and gushing emotions of filial, parental, fraternal love. Think it not a weakness. *God is love.* Love everything and everybody that is lovely. Teach your children to love; to love the flowers, to love the birds; to love their parents—to love their God. Let it be the studied object of your domestic culture, to give them warm hearts and ardent affections. You cannot make the cords of love too strong: and be assured that in nurturing the principle of affection, you are nurturing the principle of virtue.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.

2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.

3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.

4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

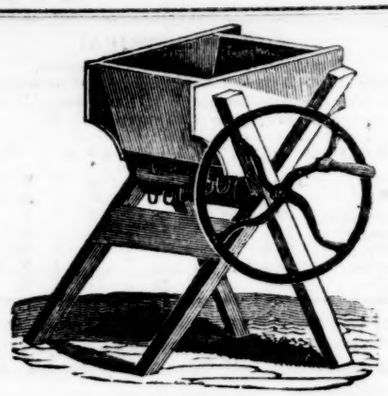
At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twenty-seven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twenty-nine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.



WILLIS'S
Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter.

For sale at the New England Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 and 52 North Market Street, Boston, Willis's Latest Improved Vegetable Cutter. This machine surpasses all others for the purpose of Cutting Ruta Baga, Mangel Wurtzel, and other roots. The great objection to other machines, is their cutting the roots in slices, which makes it almost impossible for the cattle to get hold of them: this machine with a little alteration, cuts them into large or small pieces, of such shape as is most convenient for the cattle to eat. It will cut with ease from one to two bushels of roots per minute.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Nov. 1.

HOWARD'S PREMIUM SUBSOIL PLOWS.

The sub-oil Plow is unquestionably the most importan agricultural implement of modern invention. It is considered by the best informed practical farmers of Great Britain and our own country, as an indispensable article in the most profitable husbandry. Says that eminently skilful and intelligent agriculturist, Mr. Phinney, of Lexington: "such is the estimate in which I hold this important implement, that I should consider it a great piece of improvidence to put in a crop without first subsoiling the ground." The subsoil Plows manufactured by Mr. Howard, are of two sizes—the smaller obtained the highest premium offered by the State Agricultural Society at its late exhibition at Worcester. The committee to award the premium on Subsoil Plows, in their report say:—"The committee were pleased with the neatness and firmness of structure of these Plows—characteristics which have distinguished all the Plows of Mr. Howard that have come within their observation. *Utility* and not *show*, are their peculiar features. * * They were astonished to find with what ease and perfection the hard pan could be stirred, and broken to the depth and width of 8 or 9 inches, for such was the operation of the medium size Plows, with a power not exceeding that ordinarily required for moving a surface Plow at the same depth—and they found the Plow might be guided with less labor and fatigue than the surface Plow. * * They confidently recommend the subsoil Plow to the attention of the farmers of the Commonwealth"

The improvement in the length of the handles of Mr. Howard's Plows, suggested by the committee, has been made—and the undersigned are now prepared to furnish these invaluable implements wholesale and retail.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 & 52, North Market Street, Boston.

GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, are found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co. No. 51 North Market street.

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance*, or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

Remittances, *not exceeding ten dollars*, at any *one time*, may be made as follows:—A subscriber owes us two or eight dollars, which he wishes to remit us. He will pay this amount to the Post Master *in his own town*, and take his *receipt* for it, as money paid him on *our* account. He will then send that *receipt*, enclosed in a letter *to us*. We pass it to the Post Master in Boston, and get the money for it. This arrangement does away with nearly the whole risk of making remittance, and puts every subscriber in possession of "suitable funds" for that purpose.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS
21 SCHOOL STREET.